

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Locust Grove

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 561 Blankenbaker Lane not for publication

city, town Louisville X vicinity of

state Kentucky code 21 county Jefferson code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jefferson County Fiscal Court Jefferson County Office of
c/o Historic Preservation and Archives

street & number 100 Fiscal Court Building

city, town Louisville vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number 527 West Jefferson Street

city, town Louisville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Building Survey Listed in National Register on 3/11/71
has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

date 1940 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D.C.

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Locust Grove is located in Jefferson County, Kentucky, approximately 6 miles northeast of Louisville on a high ridge above the Ohio River. Settled around 1790 under frontier conditions, it was the country seat of William Croghan (1752-1822) and his wife Lucy (Clark) Croghan (1765-1838) and was also the final residence of Mrs. Croghan's famous brother, George Rogers Clark (1752-1818) who lived there as a semi-invalid from 1809 until his death. The main residence was built between 1790 and 1792 and is a two story brick house in the late Georgian style that is partially surrounded by a ha-ha wall. The house and grounds have been restored to their 1790-1822 condition. Locust Grove is owned by the Jefferson County Fiscal Court and is managed as a museum and historic site by the Historic Homes Foundation of Louisville. Interpretation at the site focuses on the life of General George Rogers Clark and the Croghan family.

William Croghan arrived in America in 1769 from Ireland. After working for a few years for a Philadelphia merchant firm, he joined the British 16th Regiment of Foot and served as an ensign until the outbreak of the Revolution. He then joined the 8th Virginia Regiment (later the 12th) as a major. The British captured him at Charleston in 1780, but he was soon paroled and eventually exchanged. In 1781, Croghan met his future wife through her brother, Jonathan, also an officer in the 12th. Later that year he met George Rogers Clark at Fort Pitt. In 1784, Croghan and Clark were both certified by the College of William and Mary as surveyors for western lands allocated to officers of the Virginia line. They worked out of Louisville with Clark having overall responsibility for all survey activities. Croghan, however, handled most of the work personally and used this opportunity to acquire some prime land for himself. In 1786, he was appointed along with Clark to the survey commission for the 150,000 acres of Indiana land allocated to Clark and his Illinois regiment for their war time service. In 1789, he succeeded Clark as head of the survey for the Virginia line. Croghan became wealthy from survey fees and land speculation, and at his death his land holdings in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio amounted to a total of 53,860 acres.

William Croghan married Lucy Clark in 1789 and the next year purchased the initial 387 acre tract for Locust Grove. He eventually increased the size of Locust Grove to 693.5 acres. Croghan operated his surveying business from a cabin at Locust Grove, but most of the land was given over to agriculture. About 400 acres of gently rolling land on the ridgetop were cleared for orchards and the cultivation of cash crops and produce. He also raised sheep, cattle, hogs, and horses. Croghan's holdings adjacent to the over were not cleared and were used for timber production. There was a grist mill located one-half mile south of the main house, and immediately adjacent to the main house were gardens and various outbuildings. After William Croghan died, portions of Locust Grove were periodically sold off, and by the time the property passed out of the Croghan family in 1878 there

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1790 - 1822 **Builder/Architect** William Croghan

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Locust Grove, settled around 1790 in Jefferson County, Kentucky near Louisville, is a nationally significant historic property for its association with General George Rogers Clark (1752-1818) who resided there as a semi-invalid from 1809 until his death. Clark played a decisive role in the western theater of the American Revolution, achieving lasting fame for his brilliant conquest of the trans-Ohio frontier and defense of Kentucky against the British and their Indian allies.¹ Clark came to Locust Grove to be cared for by his sister Lucy (Clark) Croghan and her husband William Croghan after a fall and severe burn which resulted in the amputation of his right leg. Although Clark lived at Locust Grove long after his productive career had ended, the property is nevertheless extremely important, because the Croghan residence at Locust Grove where Clark occupied a ground floor bedroom, appears to be the only extant structure with which he was closely associated for any continuous period of his life.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

Clark was born on November 19, 1752 at a family plantation in Albemarle County, Virginia, but in 1757 moved with his family to an inherited plantation in Caroline County, Virginia where he spent the rest of his youth. He made his first western trip in 1772, was impressed by the region, and spent several years exploring the Ohio River country while working as a surveyor for settlers moving into the area. He initially claimed land near present day Wheeling, West Virginia, but was increasingly attracted to Kentucky because of its fertile soil and the possibility of securing large tracts of land. In 1774, Clark served as a militia captain in Lord Dunmore's War, a punitive campaign against the Shawnees led by John Murray, Earl of Dunmore and Virginia's last Royal governor. Clark saw little action, but he learned the basic skills of frontier warfare--skills that he would soon utilize during the Revolution. In 1775 Clark was in Kentucky working as a surveyor and also establishing his own land claims.

Although still a young man, Clark was gaining a reputation as a leader. His experience during Lord Dunmore's War contributed to this, but more important was his role as spokesman for settlers who wanted Virginia to extend her jurisdiction over Kentucky to protect their land claims from the speculative incursions of eastern-based land companies. Clark also realized that the land issue would mean little if Kentuckians were unable to protect

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 55.15

Quadrangle name Jeffersonville, Ind. - KY

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	16
---	----

6	1	17	4	16	10
---	---	----	---	----	----

4	12	3	18	7	14	10
---	----	---	----	---	----	----

Zone Easting Northing

B

1	16
---	----

6	1	17	4	16	10
---	---	----	---	----	----

4	2	3	18	2	1	0
---	---	---	----	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

1	16
---	----

6	1	16	7	12	10
---	---	----	---	----	----

4	12	3	18	2	12	10
---	----	---	----	---	----	----

D

1	16
---	----

6	1	16	7	12	10
---	---	----	---	----	----

4	2	3	18	7	14	10
---	---	---	----	---	----	----

E

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stuart K. Johnson, Senior Historian

Preservation Services Division, Southeast Region

organization National Park Service

date

street & number 75 Spring Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 331-2633

city or town Atlanta

state GA

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LOCUST GROVE

Item number 7

Page 2 of 3

were less than 400 acres of the farmstead left. Locust Grove continued to be a working farm through the post-World War Two era. But by then, it was less than 100 acres in size and was becoming surrounded by residential subdivisions. In 1961, to prevent probable loss of the property through suburban development, the State of Kentucky and the Jefferson County Fiscal Court purchased 55.15 acres of Locust Grove including the original Croghan residence.

The Croghan family residence, where George Rogers Clark occupied a ground floor bedroom, is the most significant architectural feature at Locust Grove. William Croghan apparently served as both architect and builder. While the full extent of his previous experience as a builder is not known, he had been involved with the construction of the courthouse for Jefferson County in 1788. Construction of the house must have begun soon after Croghan acquired the property in 1790, because he and his family were residing in the house by 1792. As originally built, it was a two story brick house in the late Georgian style. The brick was laid in flemish bond, and the house rested on a stone foundation facing south. Pairs of interior chimneys were built into the side walls. The full basement was unfinished. A one-story porch ran the full length of the rear. The first floor windows had twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash, and second floor windows had twelve-over-eight sash. The interior had central hall plan and was two rooms deep.

After William Croghan's death, subsequent occupants made changes to the house, but the main block of the house remained substantially intact as did many of the significant interior and exterior features. During the 1962-66 restoration, these changes were removed, and the house was restored to the 1790-1822 period to correspond to the years in which William Croghan and George Rogers Clark lived there. Physical evidence found on the site and documentary research guided the restoration effort. An 1837 wing that one of Croghan's sons had added to the east side of the house for the convenience of his aging mother was taken down as was the early 20th century neo-classical front porch that had replaced an earlier Victorian era porch. The ground floor windows on the front and west side, which had been lengthened in the late 1900s, were returned to their original proportions. The front entry, also dating from the late 1900s, was replaced with one copied from the rear entry which had remained substantially intact. The more elaborate late nineteenth century rear porch was replaced by a more simply detailed porch with a shed roof, more in keeping with the earlier period of the house, and a Victorian era bracketed cornice on the front and rear was replaced by a new cornice with dentil molding. The interior restoration included duplication of missing or damaged pieces of woodwork. In addition, an original ballroom running across the rear of the second floor had been partitioned off but was rediscovered during restoration. A

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LOCUST GROVE Item number 7 Page 3 of 3

fragment of the original wallpaper, a French design, was found on one of the walls and reproduced for the room. A significant landscape feature at Locust Grove is a ha-ha wall, partially surrounding the Croghan residence. It is essentially a sunken fence that serves to separate the house and its immediate grounds from the rest of the property while permitting a clear view from the house without the obstruction of a typical, wooden fence. It was restored at the same time as the house and is the only ha-ha wall in the county and likely one of the few in the state.

The only original outbuilding at Locust Grove is the stone smokehouse which was moved from its original location. The other outbuildings at Locust Grove were rebuilt on original foundations discovered through archaeological investigation. The visitor center and parking lot located to the northwest of the house do not affect the site's overall historic setting. Likewise, modern residential areas which border the Locust Grove property at several points are not intrusive. None of these areas are close to the Croghan house, and they are screened from view by numerous trees on the site.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LOCUST GROVE

Item number 8

Page 2 of 9

their settlements against the British-instigated Indian attacks that would come when war finally broke out, and he was convinced that Virginia's assistance in terms of men and supplies was the key to Kentucky's defense. At an election in Harrodsburg in June 1776, the settlers elected Clark and John Gabriel Jones, a lawyer, as delegates to the Virginia General Assembly with instructions to request that Kentucky be formally recognized as a new Virginia county. Clark and Jones reached Williamsburg after the General Assembly had adjourned, but Clark persuaded Governor Patrick Henry and the Executive Council to send 500 pounds of gunpowder to Kentucky for defense, an important first step in the legal recognition of Kentucky by Virginia. This finally came about in early December after Clark and Jones successfully presented their case to the reconvened General Assembly.²

For Kentucky's fledgling settlements, 1777 was a critical year. From March until August, the frontier was under continual Indian attack. Raids were at first on a small scale with little British involvement, but the attacks were so frequent and devastating that many settlers fled Kentucky. Those remaining clustered together in the better defended settlements of Harrodsburg, Boonesborough, and Logan's Station. Later, raids increased in size and organization as the British under Lt. Gov. Henry Hamilton in Detroit exerted more influence over the Indians. The new county's government was organized that summer, and Clark became a militia major, making him the highest ranking officer in Kentucky. His base was at Harrodsburg. The military situation improved somewhat in late August when Governor Henry assigned militia forces from less threatened Virginia counties to temporary duty in Kentucky. Clark used this respite to assess his situation. Although he was still on the defensive, Clark began planning to invade enemy held territory across the Ohio River. After gathering information on the "Illinois Territory" (now Illinois and Indiana) from his own spies and other frontiersmen who knew the region, Clark apprised Governor Henry by letter of the desirability of capturing Kaskaskia, a strategically located British outpost on the Kaskaskia River near its junction with the Mississippi. In the fall, Clark journeyed to Williamsburg to seek Governor Henry's approval of his plan. Henry concurred with Clark's proposal to go on the offensive as did Thomas Jefferson, George Wythe, and George Mason, with whom Clark also shared the details of his plan.³ These influential men were able to secure for Clark the rank of lieutenant colonel, funding for the expedition, and the authority to recruit seven companies of troops. To insure secrecy, Henry gave Clark two sets of orders when he left Williamsburg. His public instructions sent him to Kentucky with his troops for three months service. His secret instructions were to attack Kaskaskia. Later that month Governor Henry gave Clark other secret orders permitting him to proceed further into enemy territory after securing Kaskaskia.⁴

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet LOCUST GROVE Item number 8 Page 3 of 9

In June 1778, Clark and 178 men rendezvoused at Corn Island upstream from the Falls of the Ohio across from the future site of Louisville. Clark had planned on a force of 500, but the fear of Indian attack across the frontier kept men in their own settlements and hindered recruiting. Clark, however, decided to proceed, and on June 26 he and his men took to their boats. Four days later and 425 miles downstream they reached the mouth of the Tennessee River. En route Clark had learned from passing hunters that Kaskaskia was manned only by French militiamen with dubious British loyalties. The news that France had become allies against the British had also reached Clark by courier and encouraged him to speculate that Kaskaskia's forces might capitulate without a fight. Clark and his men then marched 125 miles overland, reaching Kaskaskia at dusk on July 4. Its defenders were unprepared and surrendered immediately. Many sided with Clark upon learning that France had joined with the Americans. A few days later, Clark took Cahokia, another outpost, located 50 miles north of Kaskaskia. It fell just as easily. Then Clark gambled on taking Vincennes, 180 miles east on the Lower Wabash and a key post on the portage route linking the Mississippi with Detroit, the Great Lakes, and the St. Lawrence. After learning that its defenses were also weak, he sent one platoon overland to take Fort Sackville and the town. It was his third bloodless victory in less than two weeks. Clark was unaware, however, that a British agent in Vincennes escaped and reached Detroit with the news of his victories. It was not until October, however, that Governor Hamilton was able to assemble an army of 600 regulars, militia, and Indians to counter-invade the Illinois country.

As important as Clark's conquests were, the fact that they enabled him to negotiate from a position of strength with hostile Indian tribes in the region was just as important in terms of protecting Kentucky and the Ohio River frontier. In August at Cahokia, Clark began conferring with tribes from as far away as 500 miles, and effectively neutralized a large proportion of the Indian fighting force.⁵ Nevertheless, Clark's position was tenuous at best given the small number of troops he commanded. Moreover, his victories had not been obtained by force of arms but by surprise, the absence of British troops, and the unwillingness of the region's French inhabitants to fight. Clark was also cut off from all regular sources of information, and it was later in the fall that he learned that a previously planned American attack on Detroit he had counted on to secure his rear had not taken place, and that Hamilton was moving southwest with an attacking force.⁶ But it was not until January 29, 1779 that he learned that Hamilton had retaken Vincennes more than a month earlier.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

LOCUST GROVE

Item number

8

Page

4 of 9

On February 5, 1779, Clark and his army set out to recapture Vincennes. Approximately half of the 170 men were the remaining troops Clark had begun with--the rest hastily assembled French volunteers. Clark knew the risks of a mid-winter march, but he could not chance being overwhelmed by Hamilton's superior forces once spring came. In addition, heavy rains had flooded much of the area between Kaskaskia and Vincennes, and Clark hoped that Hamilton would be lulled into carelessness by assuming that it was impossible to attack Vincennes under such harsh conditions. Clark's army arrived at Vincennes on February 23 after a grueling march, much of it spent wading across the flooded prairie in near-freezing conditions. True to his earlier experiences, the French occupants of Vincennes surrendered without fighting. By the next day, Clark's army had surrounded Fort Sackville and was exchanging shots with its defenders. Later that day Hamilton came out to confer with Clark. By coincidence, an Indian raiding party returned from Kentucky during the meeting. The Americans shot five of the Indians immediately. Seven others were captured, and Clark ordered four of them executed within Hamilton's sight. The next day, February 25, 1779, Hamilton surrendered.⁷ A combination of bold strategy and the quality of leadership had made Clark the undisputed master of the Illinois Territory. Moreover it was the only successful American campaign of the year. Never again, however, either as a soldier or civilian would he be as successful.

Clark remained in the Illinois country until mid-summer hoping to assemble enough men to capture Detroit and thereby end British activity in the West. Although additional troops were dispatched to him from Kentucky, they were too few for the expedition he had in mind. After installing garrisons at Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes, Clark returned to the Falls of the Ohio in August, 1779. At Harrodsburg there was a celebration, and the Virginia legislature awarded him a sword and set aside a 150,000-acre tract on the north shore of the Ohio for Clark and members of the Illinois regiment.

The immediate result of Clark's victories was a relaxation of Indian and British pressure on Kentucky and the rest of the Ohio River valley frontier. Settlers began moving in again. Kentucky's population was soon estimated at 20,000. But the Indian threat became serious once again due to successful British efforts to repair the damage done by Clark to their network of tribal alliances. Over the next year and a half, Clark frustrated British attempts to overrun Kentucky, but he became more convinced of the necessity of capturing Detroit as the only way of securing the frontier. Efforts to mount expeditions in 1781 and 1782 failed, and the task of coordinating Kentucky's defense also grew increasingly difficult. Although by then a brigadier general, his actual control over militia forces was minimal. He became a convenient scapegoat for losses and defeats even when he was not present or when his orders were disobeyed. His requests to the legislature for more men and supplies went largely unheeded, yet he was expected to

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LOCUST GROVE

Item number

8

Page 5 of 9

comply with all directives from Williamsburg. Governor Benjamin Harrison began to lose confidence in Clark, especially when rumors of Clark's drunkenness began to circulate.⁸ Nevertheless, Clark was called upon in late 1782 to lead an expedition against the Shawnees in what is now Ohio. With a force of 1,050 men he burned villages and destroyed supplies, but was never able to force them into a major engagement. Still, he had taken the war to the enemy and had deprived them of needed foodstuffs and munitions, and Governor Harrison wrote him a letter of thanks. This was for practical purposes Clark's final action of the war. In July, 1783, he was relieved of command by Governor Harrison, who again proffered words of praise and thanks for Clark's service to Virginia.

Clark was 30 years old at this time. Financially, he was ruined. He had not been paid since 1778, and on several occasions he had purchased supplies on credit or with his own funds. Some of his expense vouchers were lost. Since Virginia was virtually bankrupt, Clark was paid in military certificates and warrants. In 1784, Clark's parents moved to Louisville, and their home, Mulberry Grove, also served as their son's primary residence. In the ensuing years, he tried several business ventures, but none were particularly successful. Creditors continually hounded him for debts he had incurred in service to Virginia. Charges of drunkenness continued, and as time went on the truth of these claims became greater. He became superintendent-surveyor for lands allocated to officers of the Virginia line and held that post until 1788.⁹ Still considered a powerful man by many of the western Indian tribes, and he was, on several occasions, asked to negotiate treaties with them. In 1786, he led an expedition against the Shawnees that failed for reasons beyond his control. His detractors, including the ambitious James Wilkinson, used this to further discredit Clark. At this point, Clark's health began failing, and his alcoholism worsened. Debts continued to be a major problem. Desperate, he exercised poor judgement by turning to schemes of dubious legality. One project involved the establishment of a Spanish colony west of the Mississippi River. In another, he actually received a commission from Citizen Edmond Genet as a major general in the French army for the purpose of raising an army to invade Spanish held territory on the lower Mississippi. These plots never came to fruition, but both served to further injure his reputation, especially in the East.¹⁰

His father, John Clark, died in 1799. Mulberry Grove passed on to his brother William, but Clark stayed on until 1803 when William sold the property to another relative before setting off on his famous westward trek with Meriwether Lewis.¹¹ Clark then moved across the Ohio to Clarksville which had been established in 1783 on part of the 150,000-acre tract set aside for Clark and members of his Illinois regiment. Clark's portion, including Clarksville, was 8,049 acres. He built a cabin and lived there in

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LOCUST GROVE

Item number

8

Page

6 of 9

relative obscurity until 1809. His attempts to establish grist and saw milling operations failed as did a more ambitious project to build a canal around the Falls of the Ohio. In 1805, he petitioned Congress for monies still owed him for expenditures during the Illinois campaign. The request was denied. Very likely, the high point of his years at Clarksville was a visit in 1806 by brother William and Meriwether Lewis upon their return from the far west.

Clark was already suffering from rheumatism and other ailments when early in 1809 a stroke left him partially paralyzed. Shortly thereafter, either as a result of paralysis, drunkenness, or both, Clark fell and severely burned his right leg in the fireplace of his Clarksville cabin. He was taken to Louisville and the leg was removed. He lived briefly with his sister Frances in Louisville, but soon moved to Locust Grove, the home of his sister Lucy and her husband William Croghan, six miles upriver from Louisville. There Clark had a corner room at the rear of the house with easy access to the back porch. He was attended by one servant. He may have suffered another stroke at this time, but apparently recovered sufficiently to dictate letters, occasionally leave Locust Grove for outings, and receive visitors including former Vice President Aaron Burr and naturalist, John James Audubon, then a hardware merchant in Louisville. Partially because of his poor health and partially because the new nation belatedly chose to honor its Revolutionary War heroes, Clark received at Locust Grove a measure of the adulation that had escaped him earlier. In 1812, the State of Virginia awarded Clark an engraved sword and a proclamation praising him for his war-time service. He was also awarded a \$400 annual pension.¹² He died at Locust Grove on February 17, 1818 after another stroke. He was buried in the Croghan family cemetery on the property, but his remains, along with those of other Clark family members, were moved to Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville in 1868.

LOCUST GROVE AND GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

Locust Grove appears to be the only extant property with which George Rogers Clark had a close association for any continuous period of his life. Neither of his boyhood homes in Albemarle and Caroline Counties, Virginia have survived. Most of his young adulthood was spent as a surveyor in the Ohio River Valley region, and he never established a permanent residence in the years prior to the Revolution.

The year 1777 found him temporarily residing at Fort Harrod in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, while he directed Kentucky's defense against Indian attack. Old Fort Harrod State Park commemorates that era of Kentucky history, but the reconstructed stockade, blockhouses, and cabins there date from 1926, and there are apparently no remnants of the original fortified village. The

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LOCUST GROVE

Item number 8

Page 7 of 9

jumping-off point for Clark's 1778-79 Illinois campaign was Corn Island in the Ohio River at Louisville. Corn Island still exists but is partially submerged. Kaskaskia and Cahokia, Illinois and Vincennes, Indiana all played central roles in Clark's campaign, but none possess historic structures directly linked to Clark. At Kaskaskia, there is Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site, but most of the original town site has been eroded by the river. The oldest structure there is the 1802 Pierre Menard House (NHL). The oldest structure at Cahokia is the 1737 Old Cahokia Courthouse (NRHP/HABS), managed by the State as a museum. Originally a residence, it is significant as a rare example of French colonial architecture. There is no documentation linking it with Clark, although it was standing at the time he captured the town. At Vincennes, George Rogers Clark National Historical Park stands near the site of Fort Sackville and commemorates Clark's role in the Revolutionary War in the West. Neither the park nor the town of Vincennes contain historic structures from Clark's era.

From 1781 to 1783, Clark directed Kentucky's defense from Fort Nelson, the first permanent settlement at Louisville. A small park and a monument mark the site of the fort at the corner of West Main and Seventh Streets. Clark's parents moved to Louisville in 1784. Their home, Mulberry Hill, was also Clark's residence until 1799. It no longer stands. Around 1803, Clark built a cabin in Clarksville, Indiana across the Ohio from Louisville on the land grant he received as his part of the lands set aside for members of his 1778-79 Illinois campaign. He remained there until he moved to Locust Grove in 1809. His Clarksville cabin no longer stands, and its exact location is unknown. Thus the final nine years of his life at Locust Grove was his longest continuous period of residence in one place since his youth in Virginia.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet LOCUST GROVE

Item number

8

Page 8 of 9

FOOTNOTES

1. American historians have traditionally held that Clark's conquest of the Illinois Territory was directly responsible for domination and settlement of the Northwest Territory by the United States after the Revolution. Although the Northwest Territory was awarded to the American side in the 1784 Treaty of Paris, Clark's victories were of minimal importance in the negotiations. Nevertheless, one must question the results of those negotiations had Clark's invasion never taken place.
2. Jones was subsequently killed by Indians attempting to transport the 500 pounds of gunpowder to Kentucky.
3. George Mason was a close friend of the Clark family, and he likely used his influence on this inner circle to smooth the way for implementation of Clark's plan.
4. The lure of western lands undoubtedly played a major part in Clark's desire to invade the Illinois country and in Virginia's decision to allow Clark to proceed. Clark had been involved in western land dealings as a surveyor prior to the war, and Virginia was interested in asserting her right to a share of the trans-Ohio territory after the cessation of hostilities. Henry, Mason, Wythe, and Jefferson may also have had personal interests in western lands.
5. Most of the tribes residing permanently in the Illinois territory at the time had been dissipated by disease and intermarriage with French settlers. Most of the tribes Clark negotiated with came from outside the region and included the Miami, Ottawa, Potawatomi, Chippewa, Ojibwa, Kickapoo, Winnebago, Sauk, and Fox.
6. General Lachlan McIntosh was supposed to have marched against Detroit from Fort Pitt, but he and his army had turned back before reaching their goal.
7. An armed row galley that Clark had dispatched to Vincennes to rendezvous there with his army arrived a day too late to participate in the siege. Hamilton and other British prisoners were marched back to Virginia where they were incarcerated. After the war Hamilton became Governor of Bermuda. The capital there is named for him.
8. Heavy drinking on the frontier was not uncommon, and some historians have attempted to use this to shield Clark from accusations of drunkenness. Nevertheless, there appears to be little doubt that Clark was plagued by alcoholism in his later years.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

LOCUST GROVE

Item number

8

Page

9 of 9

9. The Virginia line refers to regular, not militia, regiments.

10. Citizen Edmond Genet's schemes to enlist American aid against the Spanish, then allied with Britain, had considerable popular backing, but his plans were at odds with the more conservative policy being followed by Washington and other Federalists. Genet's plan for Clark and an army to seize Spanish held territory on the Mississippi, had some popular support in Kentucky since it would have opened up the Mississippi to trade.

11. Clark's father and his brother, William, apparently handled many of Clark's personal and legal affairs to shield him from creditors. This included transfer of some of Clark's extensive land holdings in the West to themselves and other family members to prevent it being taken as payment for debts.

12. Accounts vary, but tradition has it that at the award ceremony held at Locust Grove, Clark vociferously denounced the State of Virginia for its failure to come to his assistance in the years immediately after the war.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LOCUST GROVE

Item number 9

Page 1 of 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alberts, Robert C. George Rogers Clark and the Winning of the Old Northwest. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1975.

Bakeless, John. Background to Glory, The Life of George Rogers Clark. New York: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1957.

English, William Hayden. Conquest of the Country Northwest of the River Ohio, 1778-1783, and Life of Gen. George Rogers Clark, Volumes I and II. Indianapolis, Indiana: The Bowen-Merrill Company, 1896. Reprinted by Arno Press, New York, 1971.

Harrison, Lowell H. George Rogers Clark and the War in the West. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1976.

James, James A., ed. George Rogers Clark Papers, 1771-1781. Springfield: Illinois State Historical Library, 1912.

Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation and Archives. Guide to Selected Historic Sites. Louisville, 1985.

Skaggs, David Curtis, ed. The Old Northwest in the American Revolution, An Anthology. Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.

Thomas, Samuel W. "The History and Restoration of 'Locust Grove' Near Louisville, Kentucky, Built Ca. 1790," The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, Vol. 65, No. 4 (1967): 271-277.

_____. "The Restoration of Locust Grove." Louisville, 1984. (Typewritten.)

_____. "The Restoration of Locust Grove." The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, Vol. 48, No. 2 (1965): 145-150.

_____. "William Croghan, Sr. (1752-1822): A Pioneer Kentucky Gentleman." The Filson Club Historical Quarterly, Vol. 43, No. 1, (1969): 30-61.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

LOCUST GROVE

Item number 9

Page 2 of 2

_____, ed. "The Croghan Papers." Louisville: The Historic Homes Foundation of Louisville, 1967. (Unpublished, bound collection of transcribed original documents from various manuscript repositories.)

_____, ed. "The Papers of George Rogers Clark, 1784-1818." Louisville: The Historic Homes Foundation of Louisville, 1967. (Unpublished, bound collection of transcribed original documents from various manuscript repositories.)

U.S. Department of the Interior. National Park Service.
National Register of Historic Places, 1976. Washington, D.C.:
U.S. Government Printing Office, 1976.

_____. "National Register of Historic Places, Annual Listing of Properties." Federal Register, 1979-1984.

Waller, George M. The American Revolution in the West.
Chicago: Nelson-Hall, Inc., 1976.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

LOCUST GROVE

Item number 10

Page 1 of 2

A part of the Fort Stanwyx Realty Company's Subdivision, plat of which is recorded in Plat and Subdivision Book 1, Page 159, in the office of Clerk of County Court of Jefferson County, Kentucky, described as follows:

Beginning at a spike in Blankenbaker Lane, shown as Stanwyx Road on said subdivision plat, at the Southwest corner of a tract of land conveyed to Henry B. Waters by deed dated March 31, 1948, recorded in Deed Book 2349, Page 231, in the aforesaid Clerk's Office, thence with lines of said Henry B. Waters tract, North 3 degrees 52 minutes 50 seconds West 601.25 feet to a pipe, and North 71 degrees 24 minutes 10 seconds East 196.70 feet to a pipe, a corner of a tract of land conveyed to Charles Addison Brown and Dorothy Baldwin Brown, his wife, by deed dated March 5, 1946, recorded in Deed Book 2092, Page 291, in the office aforesaid, thence with a line of the Brown tract, North 18 degrees 42 minutes 50 seconds West 339.95 feet to pipe and corner of a tract of land conveyed to John Pryor Castleman and Mary Jane Ballard Castleman, his wife, by deed dated June 5, 1940 recorded in Deed Book 1747, Page 2, in the office aforesaid, thence with lines of the Castleman tract, North 43 degrees 22 minutes 20 seconds West 268.55 feet to a pipe in Valley Drive, shown on aforesaid Subdivision plat, and North 41 degrees 40 minutes 10 seconds East 160.13 feet to a nail in Valley Drive and corner to a tract of land conveyed to Austin G. Bartlett by deed dated June 1, 1929, recorded in Deed Book 1387, Page 555, in aforesaid office, thence with lines of the Bartlett tract, North 65 degrees 16 minutes, 50 seconds West 416.70 feet to a pipe and South 79 degrees 39 minutes 40 seconds West 59 feet to a stone and corner of a tract of land conveyed to Marion S. D. Belknap by deed dated September 26, 1911, recorded in Deed Book 747, Page 496, in office aforesaid, thence with lines of said Marion S. D. Belknap tract, South 79 degrees 39 minutes 40 seconds West 640 feet to a nail in top of post, South 13 degrees 24 minutes 20 seconds East 110.75 feet to a stone, and South 75 degrees 05 minutes 40 seconds West 442 feet to a cut on stone and corner of a tract of land conveyed to Juliet R. Belknap by deed dated July 2, 1915, recorded in Deed Book 831, Page 162, in the office aforesaid, thence with lines of said Juliet R. Belknap tract, South 16 degrees 52 minutes 20 seconds East 177.8 feet to a pipe, and South 77 degrees 30 minutes 40 seconds West, passing a stone at 705.09 feet, in all 720.13 feet to a pipe in the line of a tract of land conveyed to Ida Bell Thompson, by deed dated March 15, 1919, recorded in Deed Book 905, Page 548, in office aforesaid, thence with a line of said Thompson

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet LOCUST GROVE

Item number 10

Page 2 of 2

tract and a line of a tract of land conveyed to Pamela Waters Arterburn, by deed dated May 27, 1942, recorded in Deed Book 1826, Page 120, in the office aforesaid, South 5 degrees 57 minutes 15 seconds East 329.29 feet to a stone, thence with another line of the Arterburn tract, South 22 degrees 30 minutes West 509.93 feet to a spike in Blankenbaker Lane, thence with Blankenbaker Lane, South 63 degrees 54 minutes 30 seconds East, 110.08 feet to a spike, South 55 degrees 16 minutes 30 seconds East 284.33 feet to a spike, South 73 degrees 38 minutes East 70.87 feet to a spike, North 80 degrees 03 minutes 40 seconds East 1064.45 feet to a spike, South 70 degrees 10 minutes 50 seconds East 186.18 feet to a spike, North 85 degrees 04 minutes 40 seconds East 359.95 feet to a spike, North 79 degrees 04 minutes 40 seconds East 253 feet to a spike, and North 72 degrees 06 minutes 10 seconds East 94.49 feet to the point of beginning, containing 65.653 acres more or less.

BUT EXCEPTING THEREFROM A PORTION THEREOF, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
A part of the Fort Stanwyx Realty Company's Subdivision, plat of which is recorded in Plat and Subdivision Book 1, Page 159, in the office of Clerk of the County Court of Jefferson County, Kentucky, described as follows:

Beginning at a spike in Blankenbaker Lane, shown as Stanwyx Road on said subdivision plat, at the Southwest corner of a tract of land conveyed to Henry B. Waters by deed dated March 31, 1948, recorded in Deed Book 2349, Page 231, in the office aforesaid, thence with the westerly line of said Henry B. Waters tract, North 3 degrees 52 minutes 50 seconds West 601.25 feet to a pipe at the northwest corner of said tract, thence South 71 degrees 24 minutes 10 seconds West 888.75 feet to a point in the center of Locust Drive, as shown on aforesaid subdivision plat, thence with the center of Locust Drive, South 1 degree 43 minutes 50 seconds East 361.30 feet to a spike in Blankenbaker Lane, thence with Blankenbaker Lane, South 70 degrees 10 minutes 50 seconds East 186.18 feet to a spike, North 85 degrees 04 minutes 40 seconds East 359.95 feet to a spike, North 79 degrees 04 minutes 40 seconds East 253 feet to a spike, North 72 degrees 06 minutes 10 seconds East 94.49 feet to the point of beginning, containing 10.506 acres, more or less, leaving aforesaid exception 55.147 acres. Being the same property conveyed to Jefferson County, Kentucky, by deed dated 23 May 1977, and recorded in Deed Book 4940, Page 944, in the office of the Clerk of Jefferson County.